LISTING OF CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-40. (canceled)

41. (currently amended) A method for creating a highly connected network of nodes indicative of computer-readable data, including the steps of:

operating a computer to capture~~capturing~~ data contained in at least one legacy database; and

operating the computer to structure~~structuring~~ the captured data as a set of linked nodes, wherein each of the nodes includes at least one link to another one of the nodes, and the set of linked nodes is structured such that when one of the nodes is designated as a point of view, representations of the nodes can be displayed as a sea of node representations, viewed from said point of view.

42. (previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the nodes have identical structure but at least some of the nodes have different content.

43. (previously presented) A method for creating a highly connected network of nodes indicative of computer-readable data, including the steps of:

capturing data contained in at least one legacy database;

structuring the captured data as a set of linked nodes, wherein each of the nodes includes at least one link to another one of the nodes, and the set of linked nodes is structured such that when one of the nodes is designated as a point of view, representations of the nodes can be displayed as a sea of node representations;

designating one of the nodes as the point of view; and

displaying said representations of the nodes as said sea of node representations, viewed from said point of view.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said sea of node representations includes virtual reality renderings.

45-48. (canceled)

49. (currently amended) A method for interactively exploring, accessing, and visualizing information in a highly connected network of nodes, said method including the steps of:

determining a set of linked nodes, each of the nodes including at least one link to another one of the nodes, wherein the nodes are indicative of computer-readable data, the set of linked nodes is structured such that representations of the nodes can be displayed as a sea of node representations; and

designating one of the nodes, linked by at least one link to at least one other one of the nodes, as a point of view, ~~linking a number of the nodes directly to the point of view,~~ and calculating individual link distances from each of at least some of the nodes to the point of view, thereby determining a hierarchical network of the nodes which is amenable to visualization.

50. (previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein there are cyclic loops in linkages between at least some of the nodes directly and the point of view.

51. (previously presented) The method of claim 49, also including the step of:

adding or deleting at least one link of at least one of the nodes, thereby changing the hierarchical network.

52. (previously presented) The method of claim 49, also including the step of:

displaying representations of the nodes as a sea of node representations, viewed from said point of view.

53. (previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the hierarchical network of the nodes determines a connection strength of each of a set of linkages between at least some of the nodes, and a magnitude of each of at least some of the nodes, and wherein position and size of each of the nodes in said visualization is determined in accordance with each said connection strength and magnitude.

54. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 49~~ A method for interactively exploring, accessing, and visualizing information in a highly connected network of nodes, said method including the steps of:

determining a set of linked nodes, each of the nodes including at least one link to another one of the nodes, wherein the nodes are indicative of computer-readable data, the set of linked nodes is structured such that representations of the nodes can be displayed as a sea of node representations; and

designating one of the nodes, linked by at least one link to at least one other one of the nodes, as a point of view, and calculating individual link distances from each of at least some of the nodes to the point of view, thereby determining a hierarchical network of the nodes which is amenable to visualization, wherein said sea of node representations includes virtual reality renderings.

55. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 49~~ A method for interactively exploring, accessing, and visualizing information in a highly connected network of nodes, said method including the steps of:

determining a set of linked nodes, each of the nodes including at least one link to another one of the nodes, wherein the nodes are indicative of computer-readable data, the set of linked nodes is structured such that representations of the nodes can be displayed as a sea of node representations; and

designating one of the nodes, linked by at least one link to at least one other one of the nodes, as a point of view, and calculating individual link distances from each of at least some of the nodes to the point of view, thereby determining a hierarchical network of the nodes which is amenable to visualization, wherein each of the nodes has a node type, each of said link distances is determined by a function of the number of links between a pair of the nodes and the node type of each node of said pair, and the hierarchical network has a hierarchical tree structure.

56. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 49, also including the step of:~~A method for interactively exploring, accessing, and visualizing information in a highly connected network of nodes, said method including the steps of:

determining a set of linked nodes, each of the nodes including at least one link to another one of the nodes, wherein the nodes are indicative of computer-readable data, the set of linked nodes is structured such that representations of the nodes can be displayed as a sea of node representations;

designating one of the nodes, linked by at least one link to at least one other one of the nodes, as a point of view, and calculating individual link distances from each of at least some of the nodes to the point of view, thereby determining a hierarchical network of the nodes which is amenable to visualization; and

implementing a user interface which displays representations of at least some of the nodes, wherein the user interface allows emulation of application programs by linking appropriate ones of the nodes.

57. (previously presented) The method of claim 49, also including the step of:

implementing a user interface which displays representations of at least some of the nodes, wherein the user interface implements a simple command and query syntax which is amenable to a voice interface.

58. (currently amended) A method, including the steps of:

operating a computer to structurestructuring computer-readable data as a set of linked nodes, wherein each of the nodes includes at least one link to another one of the nodes, each of the nodes has a name associated therewith, and the set of linked nodes is structured such that when one of the nodes is designated as a point of view, representations of the nodes can be displayed as a sea of node representations, viewed from said point of view; and

operating the computer to maintainmaintaining information specific to each of the nodes, including by maintaining the name of each of the nodes such that each said name is searchable and retrievable.

59. (previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein the information specific to each of the nodes includes a magnitude and connection strength of a link between said each of the nodes and at least one other one of the nodes.

60. (previously presented) A method for associating linked nodes, wherein each of the nodes contains computer-readable data, at least one link to another one of the nodes, and a link identification for each event which links said each of the nodes to another one of the nodes, and wherein the linked nodes are structured such that when one of the nodes is designated as a point of view,

representations of the nodes can be displayed as a sea of node representations, said method including the steps of:

storing, in a context node, a meaningful context common to a set of the nodes, wherein the context node is linked to each of the nodes in the set; and

sharing a single link identification among the nodes in said set, thereby associating the nodes that are identified by said single link identification.

61. (previously presented) The method of claim 60, also including the step of modulating a connection strength of the links that are identified by said single link identification, thereby sensitizing or desensitizing said links to further operations.

62. (previously presented) A method of establishing a set of linked nodes from data organized in rows and columns with column headings, wherein each of the nodes includes at least one link to another one of the nodes, the nodes are indicative of computer-readable data, and the set of linked nodes is structured such that when any of the nodes is designated as a point of view, representations of the nodes can be displayed as a sea of node representations, viewed from said point of view, said method including the steps of:

representing each of the column headings by an abstract node;

representing each cell of the data by a data node;

establishing links between each said abstract node and each said data node that corresponds to a cell in a column whose column heading is represented by said abstract node; and

establishing links between each said data node that corresponds to a cell in one of the rows.

63. (currently amended) A method of establishing a set of linked nodes from files linked by HTML references, wherein each of the nodes includes at least one link to another one of the nodes, the nodes are indicative of computer-readable data, and the set of linked nodes is structured such that when one of the nodes is designated as a point of view, representations of the nodes can be displayed as a sea of node representations, said method including the steps of:

operating a computer to establish~~establishing~~ data nodes, each of the data nodes representing each of the files; and

operating the computer to establish~~establishing~~ links from said data nodes to terms found in the files.

64. (previously presented) The method of claim 63, wherein each of the terms is one of a set of selected tag values.

65. (previously presented) The method of claim 63, also including the step of:
    establishing links to abstract nodes representing suffixes of the files.

66. (previously presented) A method of establishing a set of linked nodes from files from a computer file system, wherein each of the nodes includes at least one link to another one of the nodes, the nodes are indicative of computer-readable data, and the set of linked nodes is structured such that when one of the nodes is designated as a point of view, representations of the nodes can be displayed as a sea of node representations, said method including the step of:
    establishing links between data nodes representing a file directory and data nodes representing files or sub-directories in the file directory.

67-75. (canceled)

76. (previously presented) A method of displaying node representations indicative of a network of linked nodes, wherein each of the nodes includes data and at least one link to another one of the nodes, and the set of linked nodes is structured such that when one of the nodes is designated as a point of view, representations of the nodes can be displayed as a sea of node representations, said method including the steps of:
    designating one of the nodes as the point of view; and
    displaying said representations of the nodes as said sea of node representations, viewed from said point of view, with visual emphasis assigned to each of the node representations dependent on parameters of each of the nodes, said parameters including connection strength of a link between said each of the nodes and at least one other one of the nodes.

77. (previously presented) The method of claim 76, wherein said parameters also include polarization of the link between said each of the nodes and at least one other one of the nodes.

78. (previously presented) The method of claim 76, wherein said parameters also include the minimum number of links between said each of the nodes and at least one other one of the nodes.

79. (new) A method for interactively exploring, accessing, and visualizing information in a highly connected network of nodes, said method including the steps of:

(a) determining a set of linked nodes, each of the nodes including at least one link to another one of the nodes, wherein the nodes are indicative of computer-readable data, the set of linked nodes is structured such that representations of the nodes can be displayed as a sea of node representations; and

(b) designating one of the nodes, linked by at least one link to at least one other one of the nodes, as a point of view, and calculating individual link distances from each of at least some of the nodes to the point of view, thereby determining a hierarchical network of the nodes which is amenable to visualization; and

(c) after step (b), designating another one of the nodes, linked by at least one link to at least one other one of the nodes, as a new point of view, and calculating individual link distances from each of at least some of the nodes to the new point of view, thereby changing the hierarchical network.

80. (new) The method of claim 79, wherein step (c) includes the step of:

adding or deleting at least one link of at least one of the nodes, thereby changing the hierarchical network.